

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [027] with the following amended paragraph:

[027] Fig. 2 is a block diagram illustrating the process of metering international mail so that terminal dues will be paid. Electronic postage meter 130 or personal computer meter 131 may be used to print indicia 20 and 31, bar codes 30 and 31 and unique number 18 (Fig. 1). During a communication between postage meter 130 or personal computer meter 131 with data center 132, it will be indicated that meter 130 or meter 131 printed indicia 20 and 31, bar codes 30 and 31 and unique number 18. Meters 130 and/or 131 will also transmit all of the information contained in indicators 20 and 40 to data center 132. Data center 132 will transmit the information contained in indicia 20 and 31, bar codes 30 and 31, and unique number 19 to mail records controller 133. The operation of meters 130 and 131 will be described in the description of Fig. 3. Mail records controller 133 will transmit the information it receives from data center 132 to data base 102, ~~where a record is~~and mail piece processing controller where records are created, capturing the issued unique number 19 for a particular meter 130 or 131 account number. The record is a proof of validity of postal indicia 20 and 31 having an issued unique number 19 for a particular meter, and the proof is provided when data base 102 is consulted.

Please replace paragraph [033] with the following amended paragraph:

[033] The mail that step 105 determines has legitimate indicia 20 and 31 is sent to step 107 for internal sorting and routing from place to place. Step 107 will note the date and time the mail is at each step in the process. The foregoing information will be sent to archive 108 and mail processing controller 134. Then the physical mail is delivered nationally in step 109 or delivered internationally in step 110. Nationally, at the recipient's delivery post office, the mail will be scanned during the last sorting process where the date and time of sorting as well as other information identifying the mail, i.e., unique number 19, will be captured and stored in archive 108. At the last facility before the mail is transferred internationally in step 110, the mail will be scanned where the date and time of sorting as well as other information identifying the mail, i.e., unique number, will be captured and stored in archive 108.